these are available—we have not received any report yet—I will certainly communicate it to the House.

श्री अमर सिंह : मैडम, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा जैसा कि उन्होंने कहा है कि भारी मात्रा में सड़क दुर्घटनाएं भारी वाहनों द्वारा की जाती हैं। मैडम, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस तरह की दुर्घटनाओं की रिपोर्ट दर्ज करवाने में पुलिस की शिथिलता काफी प्रयास में आई है, इस बारे में माननीय गृह मंत्री जी क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं? मैं उनसे यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि पिछले 6 माह में यातायात नियमों के उल्लंघन के फलस्वरूप कितने भारी वाहनों के चालान किए गए हैं ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: In the year 1996, Madam, the number of buses impounded was 6,727; the number of drivers arrested was 3,302; the number of prosecutions launched was 2,15,524. In 1997—I have figures only up to 31st July—the number of buses impounded was 2,714; drivers arrested—1,628; Prosecution launched— 94,959.

As I said earlier, an analysis of the road accidents shows that heavy goods vehicles—mostly trucks— are involved in, what one may call, hit-and-run accidents.

Several measures have been taken to curb this menace, including night patrolling, launching of a special drive under section 184 of the Motor Vehicles Act, ban on the plying of heavy vehicles during daytime, enforcement of the discipline of keeping to the prescribed lanes, and a massive checking which, as I said, during the current year, up to 31st July, 1997, resulted in 2,45,867 prosecutions.

I have just been informed, Madam, that the Task Force has met twice. Up to February, 1997, it has held two meetings.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Credit to Handloom Weavers

*303. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that his Ministry has taken note of the non-availability of credit to handloom weavers due to non-cooperative attitude of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and other financial agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures Government have taken or propose to make the credit available to handloom weavers particularly in Gujarat.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government has taken note of the non-availability of credit to handloom weavers particularly due to linking of interest subsidy from State Governments, to the credit flow and insisting of State Government guarantee for sanction of credit to the cooperative banks by NABARD.

(c) The following measures have taken by the Government in this regard:—

(i) The matter has been taken up with NABARD and as a result the NABARD has delinked the interest subsidy from the State Governments w.e.f. 1-10-96 for sanction of the credit limits under refinance scheme. Now the State Govts. have to release the interest subsidy directly to the weavers cooperative societies.

(ii) The requirement of State Government guarantee has been

dispensed with for sanction of credit limit by NABARD to the well performing scheduled state cooperative banks w.e.f. 1-4-97.

(iii) NABARD w.e.f., June 2, 1997 has decided to reduce the rate of interest by 1 per cent for financing the cooperative banks for refinancing for various purposes.

(iv) Handloom concentrated districts have been identified and requested the NABARD for formulating credit plans for the benefit of the weavers in these concentrated areas.

(v) The credit flow to handloom sector has gone up from Rs. 530 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 759 crores in 96-97. In respect of Gujrat as per the information furnished by NABARD, the credit flow was Rs. 52 lakhs in 1995-96 and Rs. 62.45 loans in 1996-97.

(vi) It has been proposed to the Ministry of Finance to extend the concessional refinance credit from NABARD to the State Handloom Development Corporations also so as to increase coverage.

Declaring Delhi-Haridwar Road as National Highway

*304. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken a decision for declaring Delhi-Haridwar Road Via Meerut a National Highway and extending the same upto Badrinath;

(b) whether Similar decision was also taken for declaring Haridwar-Uttarkashi road as National Highway;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that there are many Hindu religious places on both routes and the people visit to the Holy Shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Uttarkashi etc. every year in large number;

(d) whether keeping the above facts in view Government have implemented the above decision; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The declaration of any State Road as National Highway depends upon several factors specified in the criteria for this purpose which, inter-alia, includes high density of traffic over adequate length, overall availability of funds and not merely connecting specific tourist/ religious places.

Migration of people from Nepal

*305. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmet are aware of the large scale migration of people from Nepal to India;

(b) whether a large number of them crossing border into India are AIDS patients;

(c) whether several other divisible forces are also infiltrating into the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to curb such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) Under the Indo-Nepal Treaty of peace and